

Appl. No. 10/532,625
Amdt. dated Jan. 22, 2008
Reply to Office action of Aug. 20, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13. (**Canceled**)

14. **(Previously presented)** A method for treatment of the exhaust of an internal combustion engine in which a fluid is used as an auxiliary agent for the treatment, the method comprising the steps of at least occasionally stimulating a partial chemical conversion of the auxiliary agent in order to produce a substance that reduces the freezing point of the fluid when the temperature of the fluid falls below a critical value.

15. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 14, wherein the conversion of the auxiliary agent is stimulated before the auxiliary agent is introduced into the exhaust.

16. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 14, wherein the fluid is drawn from a tank and supplied to the exhaust via lines, and wherein the stimulation occurs in a partial region of the tank or in a fluid volume contained in the lines so that a sufficient quantity of the substance can be distributed in the fluid volume in order to achieve a uniform freezing point reduction.

17. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 15, wherein the fluid is drawn from a tank and supplied to the exhaust via lines, and wherein the stimulation occurs in a partial region of the tank or in a fluid volume contained in the lines so that a sufficient quantity of the substance can be distributed in the fluid volume in order to achieve a uniform freezing point reduction.
18. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of supplying heat to produce the stimulation.
19. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of supplying heat to produce the stimulation.
20. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 17, further comprising the step of supplying heat to produce the stimulation.
21. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 19, wherein heat is supplied for a time to heat the partial region of the fluid to a temperature above 60° Celsius.
22. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 18, wherein due to a spatial distribution, the supply of heat causes only a slight temperature increase in the fluid volume over time.

23. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 21, wherein due to a spatial distribution, the supply of heat causes only a slight temperature increase in the fluid volume over time.

24. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 22, wherein the slight temperature increase lies in the range between 5 Kelvin and 50 Kelvin.

25. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 23, wherein the slight temperature increase lies in the range between 5 Kelvin and 50 Kelvin.

26. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 14, wherein the freezing point is reduced by 10 to 30 Kelvin.

27. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of measuring the concentration of the substance in the fluid and/or the temperature of the fluid, and establishing the intensity and/or duration of the stimulation as a function of the concentration of the substance and/or the temperature.

28. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of measuring the concentration of the substance in the fluid and/or the temperature of the

fluid, and establishing the intensity and/or duration of the stimulation as a function of the concentration of the substance and/or the temperature.

29. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of measuring the concentration of the substance in the fluid and/or the temperature of the fluid, and establishing the intensity and/or duration of the stimulation as a function of the concentration of the substance and/or the temperature.

30. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 27, wherein the concentration and/or the temperature is measured in the partial region.

31. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 14, wherein the substance is a gas that is soluble in the fluid.

32. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 14, wherein a urea/water solution is used as the fluid and ammonia is the substance.

33. **(Previously presented)** A device for treatment of the exhaust of an internal combustion engine in which a fluid (1) is used as an auxiliary agent for the treatment, the device comprising means (2, 3, 4, 5, 3a, 4a, 5a, 14) for at least occasionally stimulating a partial chemical conversion of the auxiliary agent into a substance that reduces the freezing point of

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the fluid, the means being disposed and/or embodied so as to permit the stimulation to occur when the temperature of the fluid falls below a critical value.